

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T. Kudo, et al.

: Art Unit:

Serial No.: To be assigned

: Examiner:

Filed: Herewith

:
:
:FOR: GROUP FORMING SYSTEM, GROUP
FORMING APPARATUS, GROUP FORMING
METHOD, PROGRAM, AND MEDIUM**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 16, with the following:

One aspect of the present invention is a group forming system comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 8, with the following:

Another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 15, with the following:

Still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus, wherein said apparatus further comprises activity judging means of judging a degree of activity of the group on the basis of a history and/or a frequency of postings of information to the group from the user belonging to the group, and

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 5, with the following:

Yet still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 1, with the following:

Still yet another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus, wherein said apparatus further comprises monitoring means of monitoring plural sets of information which are posted to the group from the user belonging to the group, and

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 16, with the following:

A further aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 11, with the following:

A still further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 1, with the following:

A yet further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method, wherein, in said accumulating step, also information related to the classified groups is accumulated, and

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 8, with the following:

A still yet further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 14, with the following:

An additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 7, with the following:

A still additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 1, with the following:

A yet additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method, wherein the provision of the provided information on the basis of the predetermined criterion includes the steps of: on the basis of at least one of personal information and preference information of a user belonging to the group, judging whether the user has known the keyword or not; and, if it is judged that the user has not yet known the keyword, providing the provided information.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 15, with the following:

A still yet additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 5, with the following:

A supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising the steps of:

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 22, with the following:

A still supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method, wherein the history of posted information is stored in the form of a pair of keyword and the number of postings of the keyword.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 1, with the following:

A yet supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method, wherein the condition is a keyword and a lower limit of the number of postings of the keyword to the group.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 11, with the following:

A still yet supplementary aspect of the present invention is a program for causing a computer to function as a whole or a part of said accumulating means, said classifying means, and said determining and notifying means of said group forming apparatus.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 16, with the following:

Another aspect of the present invention is a program for causing a computer to perform a whole or a part of said steps of said group forming method.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 20, with the following:

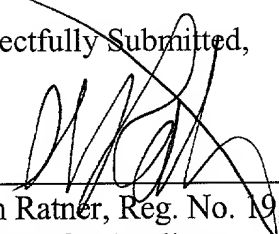
Still another aspect of the present invention is a medium which carries a program for causing a computer to function as a whole or a part of said accumulating means, said classifying means, and said determining and notifying means of said group forming apparatus, said medium being processable by a computer.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 1, with the following:

Yet still another aspect of the present invention is a medium which carries a program for causing a computer to perform a whole or a part of said steps of said

group forming method according to any one of, said medium being processable by a computer.

Respectfully Submitted,


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AR/ebf

Enclosure: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Dated: November 21, 2001

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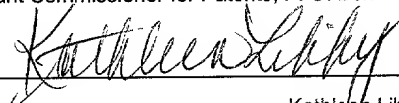
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Kathleen Libby

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 3, line 16:

One aspect [The 1st invention] of the present invention is a group forming system comprising:

At page 4, line 8:

[The 2nd invention] Another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus comprising:

At page 5, line 15:

[The 3rd invention] Still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises activity judging means of judging a degree of activity of the group on the basis of a history and/or a frequency of postings of information to the group from the user belonging to the group, and

At page 6, line 5:

[The 4th invention] Yet still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises:

At page 7, line 1:

[The 5th invention] Still yet another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises monitoring means of monitoring plural sets of information which are posted to the group from the user belonging to the group, and

At page 7, line 16:

[The 6th invention] A further aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises:

At page 8, line 11:

[The 7th invention] A still further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

At page 9, line 1:

[The 8th invention] A yet further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to 7th invention], wherein, in said accumulating step, also information related to the classified groups is accumulated, and

At page 9, line 8:

[The 9th invention] A still yet further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

At page 10, line 14:

[The 10th invention] An additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

At page 11, line 7:

[The 11th invention] A still additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

At page 12, line 1:

[The 12th invention] A yet additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to 11th invention], wherein the provision of the provided information on the basis of the predetermined criterion includes the steps of: on the basis of at least one of personal information and preference information of a user belonging to the group, judging whether the user has known the keyword or not; and, if it is judged that the user has not yet known the keyword, providing the provided information.

At page 12, line 15:

[The 13th invention] A still yet additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

At page 13, line 5:

[The 14th invention] A supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising the steps of:

At page 13, line 22:

[The 15th invention] A still supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to the 14th invention], wherein the history of posted information is stored in the form of a pair of keyword and the number of postings of the keyword.

At page 14, line 1:

[The 16th invention] A yet supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to the 14th invention], wherein the condition is a keyword and a lower limit of the number of postings of the keyword to the group.

At page 14, line 11:

[The 17th invention] A still yet supplementary aspect of the present invention is a program for causing a computer to function as a whole or a part of said accumulating means, said classifying means, and said determining and notifying means of said group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention].

At page 14, line 16:

[The 18th invention] Another aspect of the present invention is a program for causing a computer to perform a whole or a part of said steps of said group forming method [according to any one of 7th to 16th inventions].

At page 14, line 20:

[The 19th invention] Still another aspect of the present invention is a medium which carries a program for causing a computer to function as a whole or a part of said accumulating means, said classifying means, and said determining and notifying means of said group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], said medium being processable by a computer.

At page 15, line 1:

[The 20th invention] Yet still another aspect of the present invention is a medium which carries a program for causing a computer to perform a whole or a part of said steps of said group forming method according to any one of [7th to 16th inventions], said medium being processable by a computer.